

News

United
States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Philadelphia, Pa. 19106-3305

Internet address: www.bls.gov/ro3/home.htm

INFORMATION: Gerald Perrins
(215) 597-3282

MEDIA CONTACT: Sheila Watkins
(215) 861-5600

PLS - 4167

FOR RELEASE:

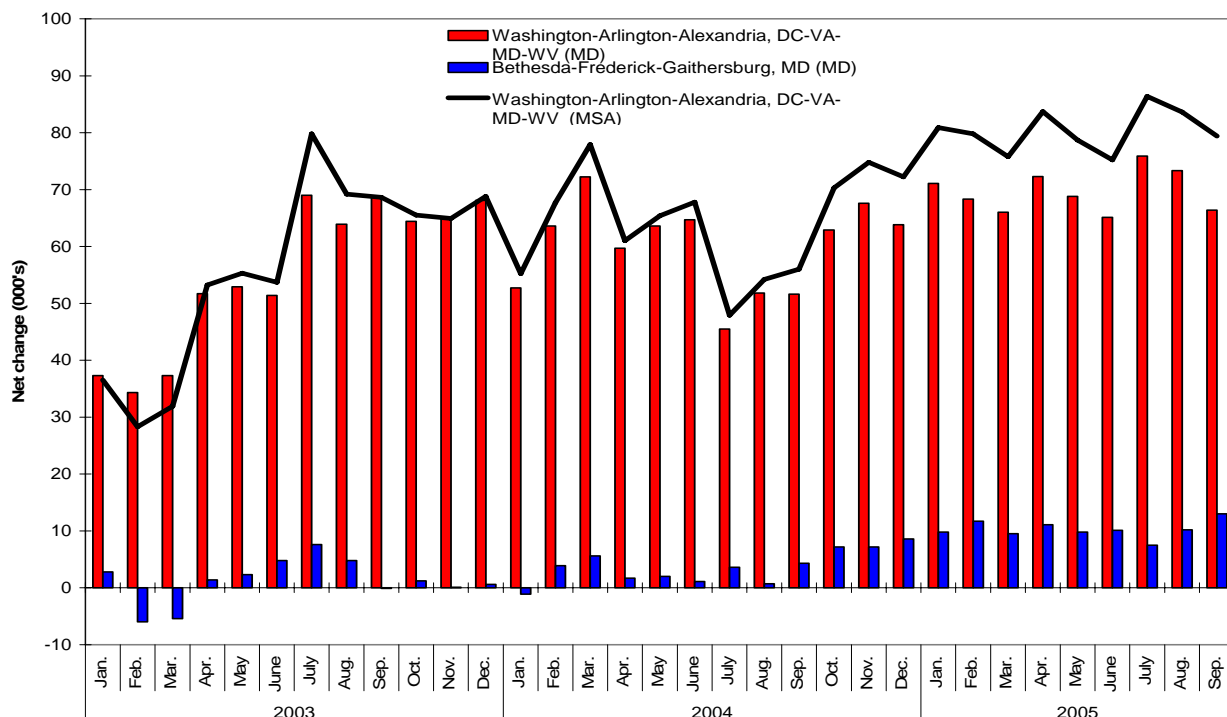
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2005

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA JOB COUNT RISES BY 79,400 FROM SEPTEMBER A YEAR AGO

Total nonfarm employment for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 2,939,700 in September 2005, an increase of 2.8 percent over the year, higher than the 1.7-percent increase for the nation as a whole, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that Washington's two metropolitan divisions—separately identifiable employment centers within the larger metropolitan area—both gained jobs from September 2004 to September 2005, with the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division adding the largest number, 66,400. It should be noted, however, that the Washington metropolitan division accounts for just over 80 percent of the workforce in the Washington metropolitan area. (See chart 1 and table 1; technical note at end of release contains metropolitan area definitions.)

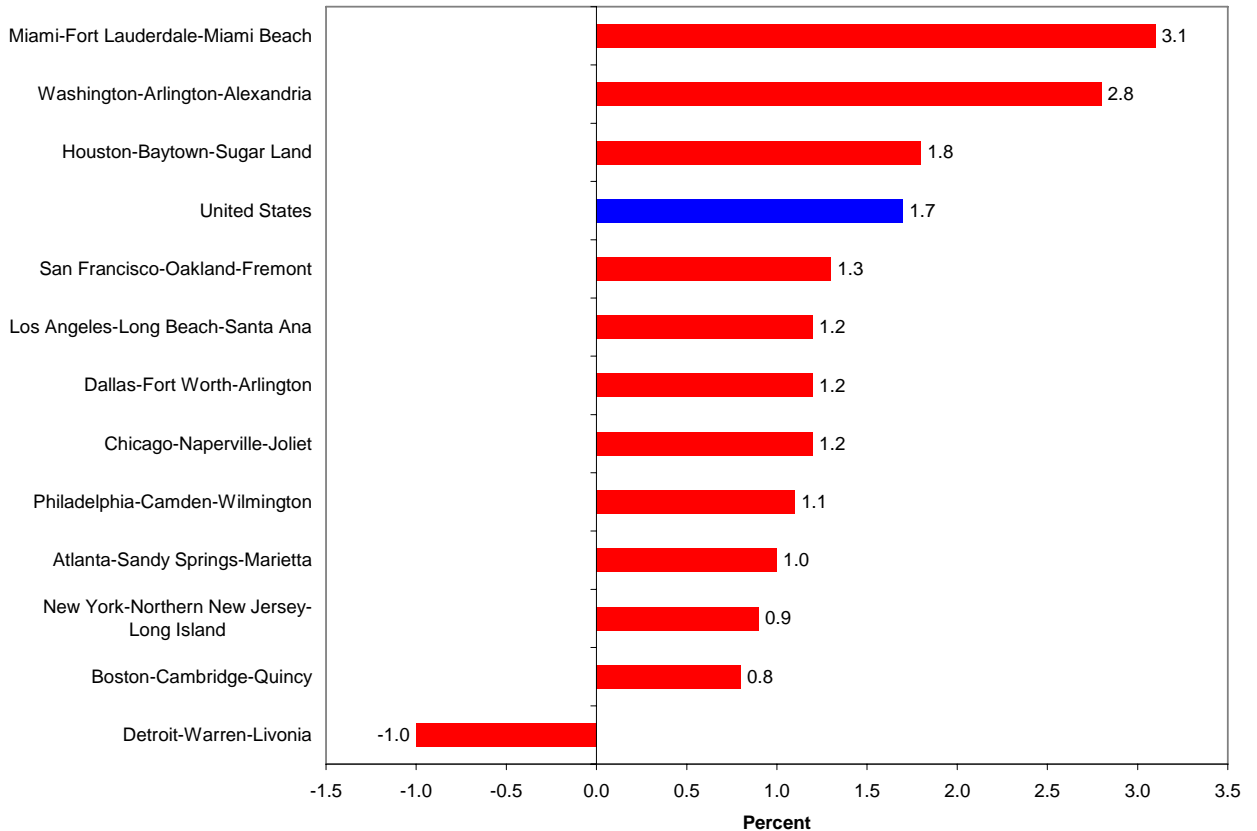
Approximately one-fifth, or about 20 percent of the employed in the Washington area, work in the Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg, Md. Metropolitan Division, which gained 13,000 jobs from September a year ago. Job growth in the Bethesda division has been steady throughout 2005. (All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart 1. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year net change in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria and Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg Metropolitan Divisions and the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria Metropolitan Statistical Area, January 2003-September 2005



The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria area is one of the nation's 12 largest metropolitan statistical areas. In addition to Washington, 2 other areas (Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, and Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land) registered growth stronger than the 1.7-percent over-the-year gain for the nation in September 2005. (See chart 2.) Miami led the 12 areas with 3.1-percent job growth, followed by Washington at 2.8 percent, and Houston at 1.8 percent. Job growth ranged from 0.8 to 1.3 percent in 8 of the 12 metropolitan areas. Only Detroit-Warren-Livonia experienced an over-the-year job loss, dropping 1.0 percent of its employment.

Chart 2. Over-the-year percent change in employment, 12 largest metropolitan areas and the United States, September 2005



In the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area as a whole, growth was widespread among the various industry supersectors from September 2004 to September 2005. No industry supersector in the metropolitan area lost jobs from September a year ago. The September advance was led by the expansion in professional and business services, which added 23,400 jobs. Trade, transportation, and utilities (11,500) added the second most jobs in the metropolitan area, followed closely by leisure and hospitality (10,700). Other bright spots included natural resources, mining, and construction; educational and health services; government; other services; and financial activities, all of which added to their job counts over the last 12 months. Employment in the remaining two industry supersectors (information and manufacturing) was essentially unchanged from September 2004 to September 2005. (See table 1.)

Job growth in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division mirrored the larger metropolitan statistical area. Professional and business services (17,700); trade, transportation, and utilities (10,900); and leisure and hospitality (9,500) led September's advance. Other industries to add jobs from September 2004 to September 2005 were natural resources, mining, and construction; government; educational and health services; other services; and financial activities. Employment changes in the remaining two industries (manufacturing and information) varied by less than 1,000 from September a year ago.

From September 2004 to September 2005, job growth in the Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg, Md. Metropolitan Division was led by professional and business services (5,600) and educational and health services (2,000). Jobs in financial activities rose by 1,200 in the metropolitan division over the 12-month period, while natural resources, mining, and construction; leisure and hospitality; and other services each added 1,100 jobs. Employment changes in the remaining four industries varied by less than 1,000 from September a year ago.

Industry employment in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria metropolitan area

Employment in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria metropolitan area was up 2.8 percent from September 2004 to September 2005 with the addition of 79,400 jobs. This marked the 39th consecutive month of over-the-year growth. However, the expansion was still well below the peak increase of 138,700 jobs from June 1999 to June 2000. Both metropolitan divisions contributed to the recent advance.

Professional and business services, the largest industry supersector in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. metropolitan area, accounting for over one-fifth of all employment, rose by 23,400 from September a year ago. (See table 1.) Both metropolitan divisions contributed to the recent advance in this industry supersector. Over three-fourths of the region's job count in professional and business services was located in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division in September 2005.

Employment in trade, transportation, and utilities rose by 11,500 in the metropolitan area from September 2004 to September 2005, an increase of 2.9 percent. Nearly all of the recent advance in this industry occurred in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division.

Jobs in leisure and hospitality rose by 10,700 in the Washington area, an increase of 4.3 percent; this was the 45th straight over-the-year advance. The vast majority of the recent gains in this industry were also located in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division.

Employment in natural resources, mining, and construction rose by 8,400 from September 2004 to September 2005. Over three-fourths of the natural resources, mining, and construction jobs in September 2005 were located in Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division.

Jobs in educational and health services rose by 7,900 in the metropolitan area from September a year ago, an increase of 2.6 percent. Again, the majority of job growth occurred in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division.

Government, the second-largest industry supersector in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. metropolitan area just behind professional and business services, accounted for over one-fifth of all employment in September 2005. Over the year, public sector employment rose by 7,200, an increase of 1.2 percent. The recent advance was dominated by the addition of 6,600 public sector jobs in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division.

Employment in the other services industry (which includes equipment and machinery repairing, promoting or administering religious activities, grantmaking, advocacy, and such services as providing drycleaning and laundry, personal care, death care, pet care, photofinishing, temporary parking, and dating) rose by 6,300 in the Washington metropolitan area. The advance represented a 3.8-percent increase—the 166th consecutive month of over-the-year gains in this industry supersector, surpassing the length of expansion in all other industries.

Financial activities employment rose by 4,100 from September 2004 to September 2005, as both the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division and the Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg, Md. Metropolitan Division added jobs. Nearly three-fourths of the area's job count in financial activities was located in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division.

Employment in the information supersector (which includes software publishing, and both traditional publishing and publishing exclusively on the Internet; the motion picture and sound recording industries; the broadcasting industries, including traditional broadcasting and those broadcasting exclusively over the Internet; the telecommunications industries; and the industries known as Internet services providers and Web search portals, data processing industries, and the information services industries) was little changed from the previous year. The last time that this industry supersector added 1,000 or more jobs to its count in the Washington metropolitan area was July 2001, when it added 3,300 jobs. This expansion was still well below the peak increase of 18,800 jobs from June 1999 to June 2000.

Manufacturing employment was also essentially unchanged from September 2004 to September 2005 in the metropolitan area. Overall, there were 66,200 factory jobs in the Washington area in September 2005. Like the information supersector, job growth has been slow in manufacturing in recent years; the last time that manufacturing added 1,000 or more jobs to its count in the metropolitan area was November 2000, with the addition of 1,300 jobs. Since September 2000, employment in the manufacturing industry has declined by 15,200, or nearly one-fifth of its total, in the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. metropolitan area.

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, Washington metropolitan area and its components, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Sep 2004	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005(p)	Change from Sep 2004 to Sep 2005(p)	
					Number	Percent
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)						
Total nonfarm	2,860.3	2,939.6	2,935.5	2,939.7	79.4	2.8
Natural resources, mining & construction	181.9	189.9	191.2	190.3	8.4	4.6
Manufacturing	66.1	66.4	66.4	66.2	0.1	0.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	395.0	407.1	407.8	406.5	11.5	2.9
Information	107.1	108.5	108.2	107.3	0.2	0.2
Financial Activities	156.8	162.2	162.0	160.9	4.1	2.6
Professional & Business Services	619.3	644.5	644.2	642.7	23.4	3.8
Educational & Health Services	302.2	302.3	300.2	310.1	7.9	2.6
Leisure & Hospitality	246.6	264.1	263.5	257.3	10.7	4.3
Other Services	164.7	172.6	171.9	171.0	6.3	3.8
Government	620.2	622.0	620.1	627.4	7.2	1.2
Bethesda-Fredrick-Gaithersburg, Md. Metropolitan Division (MD)						
Total nonfarm	559.0	571.5	571.4	572.0	13.0	2.3
Natural resources, mining & construction	41.4	42.4	42.7	42.5	1.1	2.7
Manufacturing	22.0	21.4	21.2	21.3	-0.7	-3.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	82.5	82.8	83.0	83.1	0.6	0.7
Information	17.0	17.6	17.7	17.4	0.4	2.4
Financial Activities	43.1	44.7	44.6	44.3	1.2	2.8
Professional & Business Services	115.5	120.5	120.8	121.1	5.6	4.8
Educational & Health Services	67.7	70.2	69.3	69.7	2.0	3.0
Leisure & Hospitality	47.3	49.9	49.7	48.4	1.1	2.3
Other Services	29.4	31.3	31.0	30.5	1.1	3.7
Government	93.1	90.7	91.4	93.7	0.6	0.6
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division (MD)						
Total nonfarm	2,301.3	2,368.1	2,364.1	2,367.7	66.4	2.9
Natural resources, mining & construction	140.5	147.5	148.5	147.8	7.3	5.2
Manufacturing	44.2	45.0	45.2	44.9	0.7	1.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	312.5	324.3	324.8	323.4	10.9	3.5
Information	90.2	90.9	90.5	89.9	-0.3	-0.3
Financial Activities	113.7	117.5	117.4	116.6	2.9	2.6
Professional & Business Services	503.9	524.0	523.4	521.6	17.7	3.5
Educational & Health Services	234.5	232.1	230.9	240.4	5.9	2.5
Leisure & Hospitality	199.4	214.2	213.8	208.9	9.5	4.8
Other Services	135.3	141.3	140.9	140.5	5.2	3.8
Government	527.1	531.3	528.7	533.7	6.6	1.3

(p) = preliminary

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 large metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Sep 2004	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005(p)	Change from Sep 2004 to Sep 2005(p)	
					Number	Percent
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Pa.						
Total nonfarm	8,278.0	8,364.6	8,329.3	8,350.2	72.2	0.9
Total private	7,036.6	7,099.5	7,090.7	7,104.1	67.5	1.0
Natural Resources, mining & construction	342.5	343.4	347.4	348.2	5.7	1.7
Manufacturing	500.7	483.2	483.8	487.3	-13.4	-2.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,583.1	1,568.4	1,566.0	1,581.8	-1.3	-0.1
Information	289.4	288.4	289.1	288.4	-1.0	-0.3
Financial activities	771.1	789.6	790.2	786.0	14.9	1.9
Professional and business services	1,229.6	1,244.2	1,247.2	1,240.2	10.6	0.9
Education and health services	1,350.0	1,367.0	1,359.9	1,384.2	34.2	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	624.8	660.5	654.9	638.1	13.3	2.1
Other services	345.1	354.8	352.2	349.9	4.8	1.4
Government	1,241.4	1,265.1	1,238.6	1,246.1	4.7	0.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana, Calif.						
Total nonfarm	5,436.6	5,486.2	5,485.1	5,501.1	64.5	1.2
Total private	4,715.3	4,777.5	4,784.8	4,786.3	71.0	1.5
Construction	237.6	246.1	248.6	249.7	12.1	5.1
Manufacturing	664.8	659.6	658.1	657.8	-7.0	-1.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,046.1	1,053.1	1,054.9	1,056.1	10.0	1.0
Information	229.4	249.7	249.7	241.7	12.3	5.4
Financial activities	375.9	378.6	378.2	378.4	2.5	0.7
Professional and business services	826.5	841.8	846.6	846.8	20.3	2.5
Education and health services	595.3	593.0	593.5	604.9	9.6	1.6
Leisure and hospitality	542.8	555.8	556.0	551.3	8.5	1.6
Other services	192.3	195.0	194.3	194.8	2.5	1.3
Government	721.3	708.7	700.3	714.8	-6.5	-0.9
Chicago-Naperville-Joliet, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.						
Total nonfarm	4,438.6	4,474.5	4,477.3	4,489.7	51.1	1.2
Total private	3,886.0	3,927.2	3,936.4	3,933.7	47.7	1.2
Natural Resources, mining & construction	225.1	226.6	227.3	226.8	1.7	0.8
Manufacturing	503.6	496.0	496.8	495.9	-7.7	-1.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	907.9	911.4	913.2	914.1	6.2	0.7
Information	93.4	92.6	92.6	92.6	-0.8	-0.9
Financial activities	324.9	329.5	330.3	328.1	3.2	1.0
Professional and business services	692.7	714.5	719.3	720.8	28.1	4.1
Education and health services	546.3	543.9	544.5	551.8	5.5	1.0
Leisure and hospitality	396.1	410.3	411.0	405.8	9.7	2.4
Other services	195.6	202.4	201.4	197.8	2.2	1.1
Government	552.5	547.3	540.9	556.0	3.5	0.6
Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va.						
Total nonfarm	2,860.3	2,939.6	2,935.5	2,939.7	79.4	2.8
Total private	2,240.1	2,317.6	2,315.4	2,312.3	72.2	3.2
Natural resources, mining & construction	181.9	189.9	191.2	190.3	8.4	4.6
Manufacturing	66.1	66.4	66.4	66.2	0.1	0.2
Trade, transportation, and utilities	395.0	407.1	407.8	406.5	11.5	2.9
Information	107.1	108.5	108.2	107.3	0.2	0.2
Financial activities	156.8	162.2	162.0	160.9	4.1	2.6
Professional and business services	619.3	644.5	644.2	642.7	23.4	3.8
Education and health services	302.2	302.3	300.2	310.1	7.9	2.6
Leisure and hospitality	246.6	264.1	263.5	257.3	10.7	4.3
Other services	164.7	172.6	171.9	171.0	6.3	3.8
Government	620.2	622.0	620.1	627.4	7.2	1.2

(p) = preliminary.

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 large metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)—continued

Area and Industry	Sep 2004	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005(p)	Change from Sep 2004 to Sep 2005(p)	
					Number	Percent
Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md.						
Total nonfarm	2,749.1	2,764.4	2,756.8	2,778.7	29.6	1.1
Total private	2,399.8	2,428.8	2,426.6	2,427.9	28.1	1.2
Natural resources, mining & construction	128.8	131.6	131.8	130.8	2.0	1.6
Manufacturing	236.7	228.6	229.8	228.7	-8.0	-3.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	529.4	536.6	535.6	537.9	8.5	1.6
Information	55.5	55.3	54.9	54.1	-1.4	-2.5
Financial activities	218.6	221.3	221.7	219.6	1.0	0.5
Professional and business services	405.0	414.5	414.6	414.7	9.7	2.4
Education and health services	488.3	489.3	488.8	498.6	10.3	2.1
Leisure and hospitality	214.8	226.5	225.4	220.2	5.4	2.5
Other services	122.4	125.1	124.0	123.3	0.9	0.7
Government	349.2	335.6	330.2	350.8	1.6	0.5
Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas						
Total nonfarm	2,712.4	2,719.0	2,728.4	2,745.4	33.0	1.2
Total private	2,362.2	2,381.7	2,385.3	2,383.8	21.6	0.9
Natural resources, mining & construction	160.1	161.1	161.1	161.3	1.2	0.7
Manufacturing	295.2	295.9	295.5	296.0	0.8	0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	592.9	592.5	594.3	592.6	-0.3	-0.1
Information	92.4	93.4	93.4	93.4	1.0	1.1
Financial activities	215.7	216.9	216.8	217.9	2.2	1.0
Professional and business services	369.8	380.1	381.7	382.2	12.4	3.4
Education and health services	275.7	276.7	278.3	279.2	3.5	1.3
Leisure and hospitality	253.2	256.2	255.6	254.0	0.8	0.3
Other services	107.2	108.9	108.6	107.2	0.0	0.0
Government	350.2	337.3	343.1	361.6	11.4	3.3
Boston-Cambridge-Quincy, Mass.-N.H. (NECTA)						
Total nonfarm	2,412.8	2,415.7	2,404.6	2,432.6	19.8	0.8
Total private	2,122.9	2,146.4	2,141.2	2,142.3	19.4	0.9
Natural resources and mining	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	-0.1	-8.3
Construction	105.2	108.1	108.7	107.4	2.2	2.1
Manufacturing	232.2	232.7	233.1	232.8	0.6	0.3
Trade, transportation, and utilities	422.1	423.6	423.1	423.9	1.8	0.4
Information	71.5	71.2	70.9	70.5	-1.0	-1.4
Financial activities	181.8	185.4	185.4	182.8	1.0	0.6
Professional and business services	378.4	386.0	385.6	384.4	6.0	1.6
Education and health services	430.8	426.0	423.4	435.6	4.8	1.1
Leisure and hospitality	214.1	225.9	224.6	218.6	4.5	2.1
Other services	85.6	86.3	85.3	85.2	-0.4	-0.5
Government	289.9	269.3	263.4	290.3	0.4	0.1
Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Miami Beach, Fla.						
Total nonfarm	2,293.0	2,311.2	2,351.0	2,364.5	71.5	3.1
Total private	1,975.8	2,020.3	2,031.8	2,042.6	66.8	3.4
Natural resources and mining	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.0
Construction	129.3	133.7	135.4	136.8	7.5	5.8
Manufacturing	100.2	99.4	99.2	100.3	0.1	0.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	508.7	515.7	518.1	519.6	10.9	2.1
Information	58.5	58.6	58.9	58.9	0.4	0.7
Financial activities	169.1	173.2	173.3	173.1	4.0	2.4
Professional and business services	385.8	401.7	404.6	406.1	20.3	5.3
Education and health services	294.7	297.1	301.1	305.8	11.1	3.8
Leisure and hospitality	231.9	241.9	241.8	243.0	11.1	4.8
Other services	97.1	98.5	98.9	98.5	1.4	1.4
Government	317.2	290.9	319.2	321.9	4.7	1.5

(p) = preliminary.

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, 12 large metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)—continued

Area and Industry	Sep 2004	Jul 2005	Aug 2005	Sep 2005(p)	Change from Sep 2004 to Sep 2005(p)	
					Number	Percent
Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land, Texas						
Total nonfarm	2,294.7	2,306.9	2,318.1	2,336.7	42.0	1.8
Total private	1,957.1	1,985.9	1,993.3	1,993.4	36.3	1.9
Natural resources, mining & construction	230.0	239.7	240.1	241.1	11.1	4.8
Manufacturing	207.4	208.3	208.4	208.4	1.0	0.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	471.3	475.6	478.6	477.6	6.3	1.3
Information	37.5	37.4	37.2	37.1	-0.4	-1.1
Financial activities	137.4	136.8	137.3	137.5	0.1	0.1
Professional and business services	315.7	318.5	320.0	319.8	4.1	1.3
Education and health services	255.6	256.1	258.5	260.6	5.0	2.0
Leisure and hospitality	206.0	215.3	215.4	213.7	7.7	3.7
Other services	96.2	98.2	97.8	97.6	1.4	1.5
Government	337.6	321.0	324.8	343.3	5.7	1.7
Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta, Ga.						
Total nonfarm	2,274.3	2,273.7	2,299.0	2,297.2	22.9	1.0
Total private	1,966.1	1,980.4	1,994.6	1,985.6	19.5	1.0
Natural resources and mining	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0	-0.1	-4.8
Construction	126.3	128.8	129.4	128.7	2.4	1.9
Manufacturing	177.2	173.6	175.1	174.3	-2.9	-1.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	515.3	510.4	515.5	513.6	-1.7	-0.3
Information	91.7	91.3	90.8	90.2	-1.5	-1.6
Financial activities	152.4	155.0	155.2	154.3	1.9	1.2
Professional and business services	373.5	378.6	382.8	381.0	7.5	2.0
Education and health services	221.2	224.6	226.8	228.2	7.0	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	213.6	221.7	223.2	220.0	6.4	3.0
Other services	92.8	94.3	93.7	93.3	0.5	0.5
Government	308.2	293.3	304.4	311.6	3.4	1.1
Detroit-Warren-Livonia, Mich.						
Total nonfarm	2,063.1	2,008.7	2,021.8	2,042.5	-20.6	-1.0
Total private	1,827.1	1,801.1	1,816.0	1,811.0	-16.1	-0.9
Natural resources, mining & construction	92.4	95.1	94.1	93.2	0.8	0.9
Manufacturing	301.3	274.3	285.4	293.5	-7.8	-2.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	381.1	380.9	382.9	377.2	-3.9	-1.0
Information	35.9	35.3	35.1	34.2	-1.7	-4.7
Financial activities	116.5	118.9	119.0	117.1	0.6	0.5
Professional and business services	363.7	354.2	357.8	354.7	-9.0	-2.5
Education and health services	254.8	257.1	256.5	258.9	4.1	1.6
Leisure and hospitality	182.7	188.6	188.1	184.7	2.0	1.1
Other services	98.7	96.7	97.1	97.5	-1.2	-1.2
Government	236.0	207.6	205.8	231.5	-4.5	-1.9
San Francisco-Oakland-Fremont, Calif.						
Total nonfarm	1,960.2	1,980.5	1,980.6	1,985.9	25.7	1.3
Total private	1,660.1	1,683.4	1,687.3	1,684.8	24.7	1.5
Natural resources and mining	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	0.1	7.1
Construction	117.7	120.1	121.7	122.0	4.3	3.7
Manufacturing	143.7	144.9	145.2	144.4	0.7	0.5
Trade, transportation, and utilities	356.1	357.7	357.7	357.6	1.5	0.4
Information	74.1	73.3	73.0	72.5	-1.6	-2.2
Financial activities	155.3	161.0	161.7	161.1	5.8	3.7
Professional and business services	321.8	324.9	326.4	323.6	1.8	0.6
Education and health services	218.0	223.0	222.2	225.9	7.9	3.6
Leisure and hospitality	197.9	202.6	204.1	202.8	4.9	2.5
Other services	74.1	74.5	73.8	73.4	-0.7	-0.9
Government	300.1	297.1	293.3	301.1	1.0	0.3

(p) = preliminary.

Technical Note

This release presents nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES survey is a Federal-State cooperative endeavor in which State employment security agencies prepare the data using concepts, definitions, and technical procedures prescribed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2002 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. The employment data are estimated using a "link relative" technique in which a ratio (link relative) of current-month employment to that of the previous month is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are obtained by multiplying the estimates for the previous month by these ratios. Small-domain models are used as the official estimators for approximately 10 percent of CES published series.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports which are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Reliability of the estimates

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample survey and administrative data and thus are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability--that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data are also subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the special estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

Employment estimates. Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the supersector level are available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm>. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/>.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated February 18, 2004. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is published annually in the May issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes the District of Columbia; Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties, and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities in Virginia; Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; and Jefferson County in West Virginia.

The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, D.C.-Va.-Md.-W.Va. Metropolitan Division (MD) includes the District of Columbia; Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties, and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities in Virginia; Calvert, Charles, and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; and Jefferson County in West Virginia.

The Bethesda-Frederick-Gaithersburg Metropolitan Division (MD) includes Frederick and Montgomery Counties in Maryland.

Additional information

More complete information on the technical procedures used to develop these estimates and additional data appear in *Employment and Earnings*, which is available by subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (telephone 202-512-1800).

Industry employment data for states and metropolitan areas from the CES program are also available in the above mentioned news releases and from the Internet at (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/>).